

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/567,777

Response filed May 27, 2008

Reply to OA dated May 2, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 2, and add new claim 4, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A vehicle transfer apparatus, which transfers a vehicle body between a conveyance line disposed in a lower-side of the vehicle conveyance line and a conveyance line disposed in an upper-side of the vehicle conveyance line, the vehicle transfer apparatus comprising:

a stanchion disposed on both sides of the vehicle body;

a lift-unit lift-body, which is provided to each stanchion in the condition that a slide in an up-and-down direction along the stanchion of the lift-unit lift-body is allowed;

a tire supporter which is provided to each lift-unit and supports a tire of the vehicle body in the condition that the lower part of the tire is exposed under the tire supporter;

a lift-unit driver which moves respective lift-units lift-bodies in an up-and-down direction;

and

a tire supporter driver slider unit which

connects the lift-body and the tire supporter,

mechanically controls a linear motion of the tire supporter relative to said lift unit to change an interval between the lift-body and the tire supporter, and

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_____ changes the position of the tire supporter between a tire support position and a passing position.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A vehicle transfer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tire supporter comprising:

a pair of chucking arms; and
an arm driver which controls ~~an open-and-shut~~ linear motion of chucking arms and changes the position of the pair of chucking arms between a tire holding position and a tire release position.

Claim 3 (Original): A vehicle transfer apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a part of the chucking arm that has contact with the tire is a rotatable roller.

Claim 4 (New): A vehicle transfer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the stanchion is fixed on a floor, and
the slider unit changes the position of the tire supporter between a tire support position and a passing position without moving the stanchion.